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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,177	08/30/2001	Loretta Ann Grezzo Page	10012801-1	1006

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

GRENZYNSKI, MICHAEL E

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1774

DATE MAILED: 01/07/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/944,177	PAGE ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael E. Grendzynski	Art Unit 1774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-21 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some \* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-12, drawn to a print medium, classified in class 428, subclass 195.
  - II. Claims 13-14, drawn to a composition, classified in class 106, subclass 400.
  - III. Claims 15-21, drawn to a method of producing a print medium, classified in class 427, subclass 256.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions II and I are related as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship. Distinctness is proven for claims in this relationship if the intermediate product is useful to make other than the final product (MPEP § 806.04(b), 3rd paragraph), and the species are patentably distinct (MPEP § 806.04(h)). In the instant case, the intermediate product is deemed to be useful as an anti-slip coating and the inventions are deemed patentably distinct since there is nothing on this record to show them to be obvious variants. The intermediate product, moreover, loses its identity in the final product--the final product (the dried print medium) lacks the liquid carrier medium of the composition. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions anticipated by the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

3. Inventions III and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case, the product as claimed can be made

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by another, materially different process, e.g., by forming the ink-receiving layer on a temporary carrier layer, drying it, then transferring the layer to the permanent substrate.

4. Inventions II and III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the product can be used in another, materially different process, e.g., a process in which the coating composition is formed on a temporary carrier layer, dried, and then transferred to a permanent substrate.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II or III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. In the event that the invention of Group I is chosen, this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

a. A print medium product comprising (1) a substrate and (2) an ink receiving layer including (i) a pigment selected from the group consisting of boehmite, pseudo boehmite, and a mixture thereof; and (ii) a binder composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol, poly (vinyl acetate-ethylene), and poly (vinyl pyrrolidone-vinyl acetate) (claims 1-3);

b. A print medium product comprising (1) a substrate and (2) an ink receiving layer including (i) at least 65% by weight (of the ink receiving layer) of a pigment selected from the group consisting of boehmite, pseudo boehmite, and a mixture thereof; and (ii) an ink fixative comprising a cationic emulsion polymer (claims 4-8);

c. A print medium product comprising (1) a substrate and (2) an ink receiving layer including (i) a pigment selected from the group consisting of boehmite, pseudo boehmite, and a mixture thereof; (ii) a binder composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol, poly (vinyl acetate-

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ethylene), and poly (vinyl pyrrolidone-vinyl acetate); and (iii) an ink fixative comprising a cationic emulsion polymer (claims 9-11); *or*

d. A print medium product comprising (1) a substrate and (2) an ink receiving layer including (i) about 65-90% (by weight of the ink receiving layer) pigment selected from the group consisting of boehmite, pseudo boehmite, and a mixture thereof; (ii) about 1-15% polyvinyl alcohol; (iii) about 1-15% polyvinyl acetate-ethylene copolymer; (iv) about 0.5-10% polyvinyl pyrrolidone-vinyl acetate copolymer, (v) about 1-30% cationic emulsion polymer; (vi) about 0.02-2% defoamer; (vii) about 0.5-4% lactic acid, and (viii) about 0.25-5% by weight slip agent (claim 12).

7. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

8. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or *clearly admit on the record that this is the case*. In either instance, if the examiner finds one

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of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, **the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.**

9. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

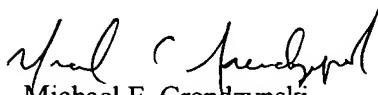
10. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

### ***Conclusion***

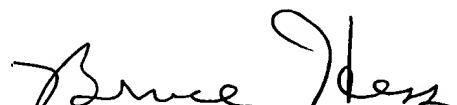
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael E. Grendzynski whose telephone number is 703-305-0593. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays, from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on 703-308-0449. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-5408 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2351.



Michael E. Grendzynski  
Assistant Examiner  
December 30, 2002



BRUCE H. HESS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER